

Dunes Climate Ready Public Meeting
2/27/16, Humboldt Coastal Nature Center
Meeting Notes:

Agenda:

- Opening
- Project update and overview- Andrea Pickart
- Small group dialog giving feedback on overview: likes, concerns, questions for clarification

Desired outcomes:

Understanding of:

- Project goals, activities, timeline
- Progress to date
- Feedback from participants on project overview
- Next steps

Conversation Guidelines

- Listen to understand, first
- Ask questions to deepen your understanding
- Share the “air time” ...be succinct
- Do not interrupt
- Encourage everyone to participate
- Set phone to “vibrate”

Responses recorded on large tablet paper at tables:

LIKES

- Impressive technology
- Important work
- Multiple agencies
- Transects will provide baseline data re site specifics
- Interesting to see how different areas/dynamics are affected (like forested areas)
- T-lidar, 3-D picture, the future, more accurate
- Multifaceted: includes vegetation process, sediment transport, multi-year, throughout the littoral cell, well designed, informative.
- We need to know how dunes will respond to climate change
- Supports and informs vegetation management
- Being able to explain relationship between sand movement and dunes.
- Understand process
- Size and replication
- Entire littoral cell
- Every area is different, dunes don't act the same, results will explain differences in the dunes
- Will explain where are the vulnerabilities and what is the best strategy

- Community involvement opportunity (at least locally)
- Outreach and education
- This could go on forever/replication through time.
- A model for other coastal areas
- Collaboration with UVIC

CONCERNS

- Markers/stakes
- More funding, will it continue, what happens after the study
- EPA state water boards
- Foredune Collapse on Rudd property
- Deflation plain wetlands
- NOAA FEMA Requisites
- 20-year mandatory monitoring- not done
- Biodiversity
- Not sitting down with us and hearing our concerns
- How reflective/relevant is 5 years of data?
- Why reduce topography?
- Steeper dunes lead to wind scour reduction
- *Amophila* progrades foredunes, stores sand.
- *Amophila* builds higher steeper dunes than native plants- isn't this the most resilient vegetation?
- What about biomimicry and planting trees?
- Wetlands infilling from vegetation removal. Loss of forests.
- Likelihood that dunes/spit may be overtopped.
- Ocean-side focused, which is great-but bay-shore sea level rise resilience/protection is not addressed- soft living-bayshore resilience.
- It seems like the only option for humans to manipulate is vegetation mix even though sediment supply and off-shore topographical factors may be a bigger driver. (Andrea commented that we could make decisions about where to place dredge spoils depending on the results of the study).
- Only two years. Need to fund five years and on and into perpetuity (long term)

Questions for Clarification

- Are the markers moving or being buried? Have they being measured/used
- Are there other ways to combat sea level rise other than vegetation?
- Littoral Cell explanation?
- How does the foredune vegetation affect the backdunes?
- How will the bay be affected by sea level rise and foredune erosion
- Why is rolling over of the foredune the desired response- is this an assumption?
- Were demonstration sites parallel with wind?
- Why higher tides in the winter?
- What will be the frequency of Dune overwash? If Southspit is lost, how does this affect Humboldt Bay?

- Relationship between sea level Rise to the height and the width of the dunes?
- Wood surveys? (Andrea's response: This would be excellent to add to the study)
- Squeeze zone?
- Will the analysis of the data ultimately support that the overall volume of the dunes (given adequate sediment supply in our littoral cell) resist and be resilient to rising seas?
- Are there other vegetation types being scrutinized to support vulnerable areas?
- How applicable is our study to other geographic areas (eg Mendocino coast)
- Where are other dune studies like this happening (ie dune morphology studies)

Shared with the large group:

Concerns:

- Assuring funding for long term study
- Will the model include the possibility of the spits being over washed
- Still have to consider rise/resilience on bayside and connect these two
- Vegetation removal projects continuing- especially at South Spit- a real vulnerable area.
- What happens after we have models? Is there sufficient funding and will to address vulnerable areas?
- Affecting insurance and protection of infrastructure- (eg HBMWD pipe)

LIKES

- Exciting to learn about the study which impacts locals
- T-lidar technology
- Transects providing data at different sites (32 miles)
- Producing adaptation models
- Multifaceted
- Education/outreach
- Supporting vegetation management
- Data Long-term, allows us to identify and focus on vulnerable areas
- Agencies that own land are involved
- Dialogue is opening up regarding management issues
- Allows replication through time
- Size and scope are impressive